

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ACKNOWLEDGING ALEX FERREIRA'S SERVICE TO THE PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alex Ferreira who will be retiring from the Placer County Water Agency after serving 17 years on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Ferreira began his long career of service as an infantryman of the U.S. Army during World War II. Ferreira celebrated his 19th birthday in May 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, Ferreira was among the American forces that served in Japan to secure peace following the end of the war.

A life-long resident of Placer County, Ferreira returned home to Lincoln after the war to farm, raise a family, and continue his public service through local government.

Ferreira entered public office in June 1966 when he was appointed to the Nevada Irrigation District Board as the Placer County representative. He later was elected to the Placer County Board of Supervisors, a position he held for over 20 years. In 1997, Ferreira began serving on the Board of Directors of the Placer County Water Agency. He has been recognized by his peers at the water agency as having been instrumental in the formation of the "Western Placer Agriculture Water Service Zone 5" and the Middle Fork Project Authority.

Ferreira's dedication to his community is further exemplified by his service on the Placer County Grand Jury, the Gold Country Fair Board, membership in the Placer Farm Bureau, Tahoe Cattlemen's Association and other agricultural and community organizations.

After a career of public service that has spanned more than 6 decades, Ferreira is embarking on a well-earned retirement, at the age of 87, planning to spend time with his wife Bonnie on their Lincoln ranch.

It is my honor to rise today in appreciation and acknowledgement of his service to our country and community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LABORERS UNION LOCAL 165

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local 165 on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

LIUNA is a progressive, fast growing union of construction workers that are at the fore-

front of their industry, with over a half million members across the United States and Canada.

I understand and appreciate the important role that organized labor, and chapters such as Local 165, play in our communities here in the 17th Congressional District of Illinois and across the country. Organizations such as LIUNA have a tremendous positive impact on the working families of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the Laborers Local 165 on this notable event, and am glad that organizations like theirs exist, and I thank them for their contributions to our community.

COMMENDING THE VENTURA COUNTY VETERANS FUND

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the services provided to our nation's veterans through the Ventura County Veterans Fund.

In 2013, \$75,000 will be awarded to various organizations that offer fundamental services to veterans and their family members through the Ventura County Veterans Fund. These organizations pay particular attention to those veterans who have returned from war and are transitioning to civilian life. This year's recipients of Ventura County Veterans Fund Grants are: California Lutheran University, California State University Channel Islands Foundation, Oxnard College, Reins of H.O.P.E., Turning Point Foundation, Ventura County Jewish Family Services and White Heart Foundation.

I am profoundly grateful for the service and sacrifices of our nation's veterans, members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I understand the struggles our heroes face when they return from war and transition to civilian life. The services that will be provided from the Ventura County Veterans Fund Grants will ease this transitional process and allow our veterans to become leaders in our communities.

I also wish to pay tribute to the hard work of the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation and the Ventura County Community Foundation. Their diligence for Ventura veterans is commendable and greatly appreciated. The grants being awarded this year through the Ventura County Veterans Fund would not be possible without the tireless work of these organizations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting our nation's veterans through the valuable services that organizations like Gold Coast Veterans Foundation, Ventura County Community Foundation, and other Veteran Service Organizations provide our veterans on a daily basis.

HONORING SUPERVISOR PAUL TEIXEIRA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I regretably rise to honor the memory of San Luis Obispo County 4th District Supervisor Paul Teixeira from Nipomo, CA, who passed away June 26, 2013 at his home.

Supervisor Teixeira was elected in 2010, representing the communities of Arroyo Grande, Oceano and Nipomo and was the current Chairman of the SLO County Board of Supervisors. As a third generation Californian raised in southern San Luis Obispo County, Supervisor Teixeira graduated Arroyo Grande High School and attended Allan Hancock College and Cal Poly State University, studying agricultural management. After school, he went to work at Kaman Industrial Technologies in Santa Maria as an operations manager for 22 years.

Supervisor Teixeira was an example of a committed community member and leader, where he served on the Lucia Mar Unified School District Board and the San Luis Obispo County Parks Commission. He was involved with many community groups such as Rotary, 4-H, FFA, Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos, Salvation Army of Santa Maria Valley and Jack Ready Park & Jack's Helping Hand. His honors include Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce, Distinguished Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Nipomo and Honorary Chapter Degree from Nipomo Future Farmers of America. Supervisor Teixeira is survived by his wife Deanna and five children.

On a personal note, Paul always extended a gracious hand when working together on issues of importance to our community. He was a kind man of character who cared for his constituents and I am honored to have worked with him.

Paul's passing will be felt deeply by the many people who knew and worked with him. The San Luis Obispo community will miss an invaluable leader and friend. I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Paul's family and friends. Please join me in honoring this exemplary American and San Luis Obispo County resident.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF KENZO KAMEI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary man, Kenzo Kamei, who was born in Vacaville, California on August 28, 1931, and died on June 1,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2013. Kenzo Kamei spent his early years in Japan where he attended elementary and secondary school. He returned to California at the age of 18, and worked with his parents harvesting crops and working on farms. As a young man he met and married Ruth Kisa "Kisako" Nishimoto in Sunnyvale, California, and shortly thereafter the couple was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Kenzo Kamei kept many mementos which documented his time at Heart Mountain . . . his daily work release pay stubs recording his earnings of \$18 per month, the highest in the camp, and the receipt that he was given on his final release from the Camp, giving him \$28, or \$5 per day for five days of travel, and \$3 for subsistence enroute. These artifacts are now part of an interpretive center built by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, a nonprofit group that has made it its mission to tell the many stories of internment, about triumph and tragedy, prejudice and friendship. After being released from internment, Kenzo and Ruth returned to Sunnyvale. Kenzo worked as a gardener and warehouseman, and he and Ruth saved enough money to launch Kamei Nursery, Inc., a grower of award-winning flowers, in Mountain View, California. They opened nurseries in Mountain View and Morgan Hill, and they were key in founding the Buddhist Temple in Mountain View.

Kenzo Kamei was a devoted husband who spent several years caring for his beloved wife of 70 years, who passed away on June 8, 2012. Kenzo leaves his son Kenneth; his daughters, Eileen (Robert) Eng, and Judy (Steve) Inamori. He also leaves his adored grandchildren, Ami, Ellen and Jonathan Kamei; Emily Eng Holbrook, Laura Eng Derdenger and Julia Eng; and Bradley, Gregory and Kathryn Inamori. He also leaves his great-grandson Davis Patrick Derdenger, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Kenzo Kamei was an extraordinary American who will be greatly missed by his family and his community. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to his family and friends who mourn his passing and honor his life which was lived in dignity and accomplishment.

CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the chorus of those honoring the late William Herbert Gray III. Congressman Gray's 21 years in the House saw him rise to the Chairmanship of the Budget Committee as well as being elected Democratic Whip. While many have honored Bill for his contributions to public affairs, I would like to recognize his distinguished service in the corporate world.

Following his career in the House, Gray served on the Board of Dell Inc. for 13 years and was an integral part of Dell's global success. In the corporate setting, Bill took his duties as a Board member very seriously. Not only did he actively participate in Board meetings, but he also brought his vast knowledge and experience to the daily workings of the company.

During his tenure at Dell, he regularly met with Government Affairs and Human Relations teams, among other employee groups, to provide insight, guidance, and counsel. As Dell grew globally, Bill underscored the importance of the company engaging in a dialogue with government leaders in markets from the US to Europe to China. He understood that corporate success globally meant more jobs in the United States.

Bill's passing was sudden and unforeseen, and a great loss to U.S. business and government. Michael Dell, the founder and CEO of Dell, shared that, "Bill was a great friend and trusted advisor to me and our Board members. He brought a unique and distinctive perspective on our business and our industry. I valued his wisdom and insight on public policy matters, and benefitted greatly from his sage counsel for so many years."

I appreciate the opportunity to pause for a moment to remember the many ways Bill Gray served his country. Erika and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 316. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE LIFE OF WESTON "BITZIE" CONLEY OF MORATTICO, VA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a proud citizen of Morattico, Virginia, a man whose friendship I have valued for many years. The late Weston "Bitzie" Conley was truly a pillar of his community, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on in Lancaster County and across Virginia's Northern Neck.

During our time working together in both the seafood and the banking industries, Bitzie was a first-class Virginia gentleman, exhibiting the highest qualities of integrity, selflessness, and compassion for his neighbors. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Dorothy Lee, his daughter, Connie, and to his many loved ones in this time of mourning. I would like to submit an article from the Rappahannock Record about Bitzie's life and his many passions.

[From Rappahannock Record, June 13, 2013]

WESTON 'BITZIE' CONLEY, SEAFOOD INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY LEADER, DIES

(By Audrey Thomasson)

MORATTICO.—He was known as "Bitzie" to his friends and family. But Weston Franklin Conley Jr. was a giant when it came to serving the community he loved. On Friday, the 78-year-old businessman and local philanthropist quietly passed away at his

Morattico home with his wife of 56 years, Dorothy Lee Clark, and daughter, Constance Elaine, by his side.

Conley was a force of inspiration in this community and a motivator for others, according to community leaders.

"He was a tremendous asset in how to conduct business and was a great help to me on the YMCA board," said District 4 supervisor William Lee, who succeeded Conley as board chairman. "I gained so much from just listening to him."

Lee, who served on several community boards with Conley, noted he was a man of integrity and generosity in both his business and personal endeavors.

"He was not slanted or biased. He always gave his honest opinion. Once he said to me, 'Bill, I wouldn't have what I have now if it wasn't for the black community.' I think he was referring to all the men and women who worked for his seafood company picking crabs. Anybody that needed something could go to him. He gave of his time and talents beyond his resources," said Lee.

LEGACY

Part of Conley's legacy is evident in the growth and success of the Northern Neck YMCA.

Mark Favazza, branch executive of the YMCA, said Conley's fiscal wisdom, integrity, strategic thinking and coalition building made him an important leader in the development of the Kilmarnock facility, including heading the capital campaign that led to the Wiley Child Development Center.

"He wanted a place where children could be safe, families could find support, and everyone was welcome . . . He was the kind of man who worked privately and led behind the scenes . . . His humble service left an enduring impact on our YMCA, the Wiley Center . . . and me," said Favazza.

MORATTICO'S "MAYOR"

Conley's devotion to his heritage and home town exemplified his all-in style when he purchased Morattico's General Store in 2003 and donated it to the community as the Morattico Waterfront Museum, which he helped establish. No doubt Conley wanted to preserve fond memories of growing up and working in the general store his parents owned and operated for 18 years beginning in 1935, a year after his birth in Baltimore.

Today, the museum also serves as a community center for the families of Morattico. The first floor remains much like the general store of his youth while the second floor pays homage to the town's watermen.

"Everyone here called him Morattico's unofficial mayor," said Liz Failmezger, a village resident and former member of the museum board. "This is the saddest loss. He was one of the first people to welcome those of us who moved here. He was so genuine—and a true gentleman. He was our go-to guy for everything."

MENTOR AND FRIEND

"The county has lost one of its most prominent and charitable citizens," said District 1 supervisor and board chairman Butch Jenkins, a longtime friend.

Jenkins was only five years old when he met the "hard-charging" Conley, a man he always knew as Bitzie.

"He treated me as a little adult," said Jenkins. "I do not know when I became his friend, but he was my friend by the time I was six years old."

Later, when Jenkins decided to run for supervisor, he sought his older friend's counsel. "And good advice his proved to be," he said. "Over my time on the board, I often sought his feelings on pending issues . . . although we sometimes disagreed. 'When I persisted, he told me, 'Butch, you usually do all right,

but sometimes, you can be a little hard-headed.”

Jenkins described Conley as “a gifted friend who cared enough to tell me exactly what he thought and, as my friend, forgave me anyway for doing what he believed to be wrong.”

“My sense of loss, as strong as it is to me, must pale to that experienced by his widow, Dorothy Lee, and daughter, Connie . . . and all the members of the extended family he broadened so freely and gladly. I can only hope . . . that the mercy of our Savior will relieve us in time of the pain of our loss and allow us only to revel in the joy of . . . sharing in the life of this good, caring man,” Jenkins said.

LEADER

Conley attended Lively High School and Richmond Professional Institute. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to the region, working in Richmond and Norfolk before moving back to Lancaster to begin a career in the seafood industry. He became co-owner of RCV (Richardson, Chase and Venable) Seafood Corporation, Smith Point Seafood Inc. in Reedville and Rappahannock Seafood Company in Kilmarnock, processing plants mostly for crabs shipped to national chains like Giant Food and Campbell Soup.

Conley proceeded to become a leading member of many industry and professional organizations, including the Virginia Marine Products Commission, Shellfish Institute of North America and National Blue Crab Industry Association. He was a long-standing member of many boards including 25 years with Bank of Lancaster, Bay Banks of Virginia Inc., chairing the loan committee for 20 years, Northern Neck Planning Commission, Lancaster-Middlesex Community Reinvestment Advisory and chairman of the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority (formerly the Industrial Development Authority).

He had perfect attendance at the Lancaster Ruritan Club for 50 years and was a 25-year member of the Chesapeake District Ruritan National Crab Feast Committee.

As a dedicated, lifelong member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, he served the church in many leadership roles, including on the board of trustees.

Funeral services were held Tuesday. Memorial gifts may be made to the Norwood Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 85, Morattico, VA 22523, Northern Neck Family YMCA, Morattico Waterfront Museum or Hospice of Virginia.

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as one of four bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus I have witnessed a deteriorating human rights situation in Vietnam in recent years which has been met with a complete lack of urgency and priority on the part of the Obama administration.

In fairness this posture is not unlike that of the previous administration which also preferred a bilateral relationship defined almost exclusively by trade—unmarred by thorny matters such as human rights and religious freedom abuses.

I was critical then, too. I submit for the RECORD an April 2007 letter I sent to Sec-

retary of State Condoleezza Rice, citing several recent arrests and assaults carried out by the government of Vietnam against the Vietnamese people in which I urged the State Department, a request which fell on deaf ears, to consider cancelling the planned visit to the United States of the Vietnamese president and prime minister if the situation did not improve.

Sadly the situation in Vietnam has only worsened since that time. A July 8 ABC News story reported, “Since the start of this year more than 50 people have been convicted and jailed in political trials.”

The government of Vietnam, which our own State Department describes as an “authoritarian state ruled by a single party,” continues to suppress political dissent and severely limit freedom of expression, association, and public assembly. Religious activists are subject to arbitrary arrest.

On May 5th, police violently broke up peaceful “human rights picnics” in several different cities in Vietnam where young bloggers and activists were disseminating and discussing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights documents. Human Rights Watch reported that, “The police also employed other methods to prevent the human rights picnics from occurring. In Hanoi, youth delegations were sent to intimidate picnickers at Nghia Do Park, chanting slogans such as ‘Long Live the Glorious Communist Party of Vietnam’ and ‘Long Live Ho Chi Minh.’”

On May 16, 2013, Nguyen Phuong Uyen, 21, and Dinh Nguyen Kha, 25, were sentenced to 6 years and 8 years in prison respectively simply for handing out pamphlets that were characterized by the court as “propaganda against the state.” Radio Free Asia reported that the pair were “convicted under Article 88 of the penal code, a provision rights groups say the government has used to muzzle dissent, and both will serve three years of house arrest following their prison terms.”

Police also violently broke up anti-China protests in Hanoi on June 2, 2013 and arrested more than twenty people en masse.

Last year, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which I co-chair, convened a hearing focused on human rights abuses in Vietnam. During the hearing Members of Congress heard testimony from Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo, the wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen. Upon his arrival in Vietnam on April 17, 2012 he was arbitrarily detained and imprisoned. Then Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Michael Posner testified at the Lantos Commission hearing and revealed that no one from the State Department had been in touch with Dr. Quan’s wife since his detention. Only at my urging did U.S. ambassador to Vietnam David Shear initiate contact with Mrs. Ngo to update her on her husband’s situation.

This is but one of many examples of the U.S. embassy, under the leadership of Ambassador Shear, failing to serve as an island of freedom in a sea of repression. This was all the more troubling given that Dr. Quan is an American citizen. The lack of urgency in securing Dr. Quan’s release was stunning.

I spoke by phone multiple times with Ambassador Shear and expressed my deep concerns about the case broadly and the State Department’s failure to bring about a swift resolution. I further urged the ambassador to host

a July 4th celebration at the embassy and to invite prominent religious freedom and democracy activists in the country—as was frequently done under President Reagan during the dark days of the Cold War—thereby sending a strong message that America stands with those who stand for basic human rights. Ambassador Shear indicated his willingness to do so and the State Department confirmed this intention in subsequent correspondence.

Shockingly, I learned weeks later that many of the most prominent democracy and human rights activists in Vietnam had never received an invitation. When confronted with the seeming inconsistency, Ambassador Shear claimed that he had invited a few civil society activists but that he needed to maintain a “balance.” When I repeatedly requested a copy of the guest list, to ascertain who specifically had been invited and if the members of Vietnamese civil society were mere token representatives the State Department repeatedly refused to provide it.

Ultimately several other Members of Congress, upon learning of Ambassador Shear’s posture and handling of the situation, joined me in calling for his removal and urged that an individual “who will embrace the struggle of the Vietnamese people and advocate on their behalf” fill his spot.

A July 2012 Wall Street Journal editorial headlined, “State Fumbles in Hanoi,” echoed this call. The Journal described the State Department’s posture in Vietnam and throughout the region in this way: “This is a classic State Department maneuver, practiced throughout Asia-Pacific but especially in repressive countries in which the U.S. has economic interests. Diplomats say they care about human rights, but not so much that it creates a political uproar that they’d have to work to resolve. Thus when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton went to Vietnam this week, she made a generic statement about human rights and a ‘Senior State Department Official’ gave journalists a briefing. Vietnam’s Party bosses must be shaking in their boots.”

After languishing for nine months in a Vietnamese prison, Dr. Quan once again breathed the fresh air of freedom. A local CBS affiliate in California interviewed him after his return home and he attributed his release to Congressional pressure. Pressing authoritarian regimes and repressive governments to respect basic human rights can yield positive results, but inexplicably that is almost never the instinct of the State Department or this administration.

Fast-forward to today. This week it had been expected that prominent Vietnamese dissident and lawyer Le Quoc Quan would face trial. A July 8 Wall Street Journal editorial highlighted that, “Mr. Le was arrested after he wrote a column for the BBC’s website in which he argued for a new constitution without a guarantee of a Communist Party monopoly on power . . . The supposed crime for which Mr. Le is being charged is tax evasion, an alibi Hanoi has used in the past to incarcerate dissidents. A tax-law conviction would allow Hanoi to jail this inconvenient man for up to seven years while claiming he is not a political prisoner. Hanoi may be particularly sensitive about preserving that fiction because Mr. Le also has a connection to Washington.”

That connection came in the form of a National Endowment for Democracy fellowship in 2006–07. Mr. Le was arrested just four days

after he returned to Vietnam and released only after intense U.S. pressure. He was rearrested late last year while taking one of his three children to school and has been jailed ever since.

Tuesday afternoon, Radio Free Asia reported that his trial had been abruptly postponed less than 24 hours before it was to get underway. RFA further reported that, "According to Quan's relatives and fellow dissidents, hundreds of supporters—including Catholics—had planned to gather outside the court at the trial, which comes amid a wave of jailings in recent weeks of bloggers and activists speaking critically of Vietnam's one-party government."

Indeed, amidst this wave of political repression, in the face of growing popular dissent is Vietnam, rather than being buoyed by strong statements of support and solidarity from Washington, and the U.S. embassy, has been met with virtual silence.

In the realm of religious freedom, the situation also remains dire. In its recently released report, the bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) found that, "The government of Vietnam continues to expand control over all religious activities, severely restrict independent religious practice, and repress individuals and religious groups it views as challenging its authority."

Later in the report the Commission characterized the government's repression in the following way: "The Vietnamese government continues to imprison individuals for religious activity or religious freedom advocacy. It uses a specialized religious police force (công an tôn giáo) and vague national security laws to suppress independent Buddhist, Protestant, Hoa Hao, and Cao Dai activities, and seeks to stop the growth of ethnic minority Protestantism and Catholicism via discrimination, violence and forced renunciations of their faith."

Despite repeated congressional calls, including in House-passed legislation, and the recommendation of USCIRF to place Vietnam on the Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) list for ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, this administration has failed to do so. In fact the administration has not designated any CPC countries since August 2011—nearly two years ago—despite the Congressional mandate included in the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to annually make such designations.

This is but a snap shot of a deteriorating human rights situation in Vietnam—a situation which merits bold U.S. leadership, not mere lip-service.

I have repeatedly said that it would be fitting for a Vietnamese-American to serve as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam—someone who understands the country, the language and the oppressive nature of the government having experienced it themselves before coming to the U.S. Such an individual would not be tempted to maintain smooth bilateral relations at all costs. Such an individual would embrace, without apology, the cause of freedom.

The Vietnamese people and frankly millions of Vietnamese-Americans deserve better than what Ambassador Shear and this administration have given them. The Obama administration has failed every citizen of Vietnam and every Vietnamese-American who cares about human rights and religious freedom.

APRIL 18, 2007.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the worsening human rights situation in Vietnam in recent months. After joining the World Trade Organization in January 2007, the politburo of the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) has carried out a large-scale brutal campaign of arrest against the nascent movement for democracy in Vietnam. Ignoring all international criticism and strenuous protests of the Vietnamese people, inside Vietnam and abroad, the communist regime in Hanoi has shamefully pushed ahead with its crackdown. The following events were particularly disconcerting to me:

On February 18, 2007, the second day of the Lunar New Year, which is the most sacred time in Vietnamese culture, the communist security forces raided Father Nguyen Van Ly's office within the Communal Residence of the Hue Archdiocese. Father Ly was later banished to a remote, secluded area in Hue.

On March 5, 2007, security forces in Saigon told Mrs. Bui Ngoc Yen that they had an order to arrest her husband, Professor Nguyen Chinh Kiet, who is a leading member of the Alliance for Democracy and Human Rights in Vietnam. Professor Kiet was in Europe at the time campaigning for democracy and human rights in Vietnam.

On March 8, 2007, Reverend Nguyen Cong Chinch and his wife were brutally assaulted by security forces of Gia Lai Province in the Central Highlands, who then arrested Reverend Chinch on undisclosed charges.

Also on March 8, 2007, two prominent human rights activists and lawyers, Mr. Nguyen Van Dai and Ms. Le Thi Cong Nhan, were arrested in Hanoi and were told that they would be detained for four months as part of an undisclosed investigation.

On March 9, 2007, Mr. Tran Van Hoa, a member of the People's Democracy Party in Quang Ninh Province, and Mr. Pham Van Troi, a member of the Committee for Human Rights in Ha Tay, were summoned by security forces and threatened with "immeasurable consequences" if they do not stop their advocacy for human rights in Vietnam.

On March 10, 2007, Do Nam Hai, an engineer writing under the pen name Phuong Nam and one of the leading members of the Alliance for Democracy and Human Rights in Vietnam, was told by security forces that he could be indicted at any time for activity against the State.

Also on March 10, 2007, state security forces also raided the home of Ms. Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, a writer, on the grounds that she advocated for "people with grievances" against the government. They took away two computers, two cell phones, and hundreds of appeals that she had prepared for victims of the government's abuses.

On March 12, 2007, lawyer Le Quoc Quan, a consultant on local governance for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, and Swedish International Development Agency, was arrested in his hometown, Nghe An, less than a week after he returned from a fellowship at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, D.C. His whereabouts are unknown at this time.

On April 5, 2007, the Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi rudely prevented Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) from meeting with several dissidents' wives at a gathering organized at the U.S. Ambassador's home. The police reportedly used very hostile and undignified manners to intervene in the meeting.

Furthermore, the Hanoi communist regime is still imprisoning many political dissidents and labor advocates such as Nguyen Vu Binh,

Huynh Nguyen Dao, Truong Quoc Huy, Nguyen Hoang Long, Nguyen Tan Hoanh, Doan Huy Chuong, the religious leaders of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, and more than 350 lay people of the Protestant churches in the Central Highland.

The Vietnamese-Americans in my district, as well as all across the country, are very angered and distressed by what they perceive as a new and aggressive plan of the Hanoi government to reverse the progress of human rights in Vietnam. They believe that Ambassador Marine and his staff are not doing enough to stop these blatant violations of human rights.

It seems to me that the Vietnamese government is conducting this crackdown on advocates of human rights and religious freedom because it believes that the U.S. has no further leverage in the region. Now that Vietnam has been admitted to the WTO, and met with the Holy See, they believe they can respond in this brutal fashion to supporters of democracy and freedom and we will not respond.

I hope that you will make clear to the Vietnamese authorities that we will not stand by while this violence and intimidation continues. I believe the State Department should consider putting Vietnam back on the list of Countries of Particular Concern, and perhaps also consider canceling the planned visit of the Vietnamese president and prime minister later this year if the human rights situation in Vietnam has not improved.

I appreciate the recent comments by Sean McCormack at Voice of America expressing deep concern about the March 30 trial and sentencing of Father Ly. I ask that you continue pressing these issues with the Vietnamese government, including the need to respect the basic human rights of all Vietnamese citizens, especially the freedom of information, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion. The Vietnamese people should be able to choose their own leaders through free and fair elections and to use the Internet freely without any censures or restrictions.

I also ask that you encourage the Vietnamese authorities to release all political prisoners and religious leaders who are currently imprisoned because of their peaceful expression of their ideas or to fight for their religious beliefs. Among these prisoners are Father Nguyen Van Ly, Pastors Nguyen Cong Chinh and Hong Trung, lawyers Nguyen Van Dai, Le thi Cong Nhan, Le Quoc Quan, Messiers Truong Quoc Huy, and Nguyen Hoang Lon.

Lastly, I believe the Vietnamese-American community, a young but energetic group comprised of more than one million citizens, should be included in future dialogues with U.S. government officials. They know the history, culture and values of Vietnam. They also have scrutinized the history and tactics of communism and the communist government's habits at the negotiating table. I sincerely believe that the history of Vietnam must inform our approach to this and all other aspects of foreign policy, and the Vietnamese-American community is a tremendous asset in this regard. I respectfully request that you invite a small representation of the Vietnamese-American community to join the U.S. delegation in next month's human rights dialogue.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING 64 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MAKERS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE "CHARLES HOUSTON MURAL AND HALL OF FAME" IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA ON JUNE 22, 2013

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 64 African American history makers in Alexandria, Virginia on their induction into the Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame.

To walk through the streets of Alexandria is to walk through the annals of African American history in America from slavery to the Civil War to the Civil Rights era. The brick passageways chronicle the vast array of history makers and symbolic structures honored with the unveiling and dedication of the Charles Houston Ad Hoc Committee's "Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame" photographic exhibit.

"As an Alexandria History Maker, your legacy of service had added to the vitality and spirit of this community," the Committee wrote in honoring the contributions 64 inductees made to the historic city's African American heritage and culture.

It has been over 60 years since civil rights attorney Charles H. Houston passed away, but the good works recognized at this dedication show that the strength of his legacy has endured. Just like Mr. Houston, the honorees have played a major role in the City and have served as an integral part of the civic life of Alexandria and its citizens for generations.

The dedication ceremony was attended by 800 familiar Alexandria faces. Among the honorees present were Mr. Ferdinand Day, the first African American School Board Chairman for the state of Virginia, Police Chief Earl Cook, Mr. Eugene Thompson, former Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, author Marie Bradby, journalist Judy Belk, athletic director and basketball coach James "Jimmy" Lewis, Minister Charles Hall, and community activist Dorothy Turner. Other honorees include athlete Earl Lloyd, John Naismith NBA Hall of Fame, educator Harry Burke, Dr. Thea James, Gen. Leo Austin Brooks Sr., and attorney Samuel Tucker who led what is believed to be the first public sit-in in the Nation, the 1939 protest of the Alexandria Library's ban on African Americans.

Historic structures on the mural include: Beulah Baptist Church, the Franklin & Arm filed Slave Office & Pen, the Freedman's Cemetery, Seminary School, Fort Ward, the Odd Fellows Hall, Alexandria Home Bakery, the Capital Theater, Out Cross Canal, Colored

Rosemont, the Carver Nursery/American Legion, the Johnson Pool, the Robert Robinson Library and the Departmental Progressive Club.

The photographic mural will be permanently located at the Parker-Gray Way, the Wythe Street entrance to the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It establishes the African American footprint in the city and celebrates neighborhoods, schools, churches and businesses vital to Alexandria's African American community. The intent of the Hall of Fame is to honor and memorialize the achievements of African American history makers in Alexandria; document the contributions of Alexandria's African American community to the city's history; and foster appreciation for diversity of the African American experience in the City of Alexandria.

Besides the City of Alexandria's sponsorship, the project committee consulted with George Mason University faculty and received support from Hoop Academy International, Simpson Development, and the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church, among others.

Mr. Speaker, these 64 individuals honored by the Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame are a testament to the human spirit, an example for resilience and defiance in the face of hardship, and an inspiration given what they achieved in their lifetimes. Thank you.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,238,434,108.96. We've added \$6,111,361,358,195.88 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful work of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana.

On July 15, 2013, the Region 15 Children's Advocacy Center, serving the families of Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties, will celebrate the completion of the Center's 1,000th forensic interview. These child-friendly forensic interviews are critical in identifying cases of mental or physical child abuse. Using non-leading and age-appropriate questions, a forensic interview uncovers the child's reality, in their own words, about the situation and is the most efficient means of providing support and accuracy to the criminal justice and child welfare systems in our State. For nearly a decade, my mother

served as a court appointed special advocate for children in abuse cases, and I appreciate how important the child's perspective is to a positive court outcome.

In particular, I want to recognize the leadership of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana. Executive Director Sarah Brichto and forensic interviewer Stephanie Back, both founding members of the Center, provide daily leadership and execution of the program's goals. I also want to extend special recognition for the vision of the Center to Board of Directors President Aaron Negangard and fellow board members Tom Baxter, Chad Lewis, Monica Hensley, Richard Hertel, Jennifer Tackitt, and Barbara Bowling. Their influential contribution to our local communities is truly inspirational.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana for their continued leadership in developing safer communities for all Hoosier children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 318, I inadvertently missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIE WILLIAMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Willie J. Williams, our Nation's third-highest ranking Marine, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. For nearly 40 years, Lieutenant General Williams has served in the Marine Corps and today he will be retiring from his post as the Director of Marine Corps Staff and from the Marine Corps. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Williams was born to the late Herman Jones and the late Ella Mae "Bolden" Hill in Livingston, Alabama but grew up in nearby Moundville, Alabama. After graduating from Moundville Public High School, he attended Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama after his high school teachers, seeing his talent and high potential but limited financial means, helped him obtain a scholarship. Faced with many difficult decisions about his future, he reflected on his life growing up in the segregated South and he was enticed by a Marine Corps recruiter to join an institution where he would be evaluated based on merit and not the color of his skin. Lieutenant General Williams was commissioned in the Marine Corps in May 1974 and began his career with the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment in May 1975, serving as a Battalion Supply Officer and later as the Regimental Supply Officer/Assistant S4 Officer.

In October 1977, he served as the Officer-In-Charge of the 3rd Force Service Support Group in Iwakuni, Japan. After a year, he returned to the U.S. to serve as the Ship's Detachment Supply Officer, Pacific Ocean Area/Marine Barracks Supply Officer and Barracks Executive Officer at Marine Barracks, North Island, San Diego, California. In June 1982, he reported to Quantico, Virginia for duty as Platoon Commander, Officer Candidate School, and subsequently attended the Amphibious Warfare School.

In May 1983, he became the Supply Officer, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California and from August 1985 to June 1989, he was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan as the Assistant Division Supply Officer before attending the Armed Forces Staff College. While serving with the 3rd Marine Division, Lieutenant General Williams deployed as the Logistics Officer, Contingency Marine Air Ground Task Force 3-88 during its Persian Gulf Deployment from May to December 1988.

After completing Armed Forces Staff College, Lieutenant General Williams was assigned to joint duty with the Department of Defense Inspector General's Office in January 1990. From 1993-94 he studied at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and upon graduation assumed command of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) MEU Service Support Group from September 1994 to September 1996. He then served as the Assistant Chief of Staff G4, 3rd Force Service Support Group. In June 1997, he departed Okinawa for duty with the 1st Force Service Support Group first as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G3 and in 1998, as the Commanding Officer of Brigade Service Support Group 1. In July 2000, he returned to Okinawa, Japan as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler until June 2001 and then served as the Commanding General, 3d Force Service Support Group, III MEF until 2003. From October 2003 to May 2005, Lieutenant General Williams served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when Lieutenant General Williams moved to Albany, Georgia in June 2005 to take command of the Marine Corps Logistics Base, a focal point of the service's worldwide supply chain and equipment maintenance efforts. He became a close friend and confidant as he served in my district for the next four years, throughout the height of the Iraq War and one of the service's busiest periods.

In 2009, Lieutenant General Williams returned to Washington to pin on a third star and ultimately become the Director of Marine Corps Staff. In addition to his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Stillman College, Lieutenant General Williams holds a Master of Arts Degree from National University in San Diego, California and a Master of Science Degree from National Defense University, as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Stillman College, and an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Albany State University.

Lieutenant General Williams' personal awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with gold star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Department of Defense Service Badge.

Lieutenant General Williams has certainly accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 40 years, Bobbie, and their late daughter, Yolanda, who sadly passed away in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the nearly 700,000 people in Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant General Willie Williams, an innovative leader who, in addition to his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, has the respect, admiration, and affection of his fellow Marines and leaves behind an outstanding legacy of service and leadership in the Marine Corps of the United States of America.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which is a poster child for why this House needs to get serious about replacing the sequester with a balanced, long-term budget agreement that keeps faith with our values and funds critical to national priorities.

According to data compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance for the Pew Charitable Trusts, China overtook the United States in the 21st century's clean energy race last year, attracting \$65.1 billion in clean energy investment compared to just \$35.6 billion in the U.S. Rather than responding aggressively to this challenge, today's legislation effectively proposes to throw in the towel and slashes clean energy funding by 60 percent. As a result, America's families and businesses will be forced to pay more than they otherwise would on their utility bills as fewer homes are weatherized, deployment of cost-effective clean energy technologies is delayed and smart grid modernization is postponed.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, or ARPA-E, faces an even more devastating 81 percent cut. This early stage, high-impact program created by the bipartisan America Competes Act has already leveraged more than \$450 million in private sector investment from \$70 million in funding to game-changing opportunities in areas like energy storage, advanced biofuels and smart grid technology. ARPA-E—and the transformational breakthroughs it is driving—would be all but shut down under this legislation.

From basic research at DoE's Office of Science to environmental cleanup at our nation's nuclear defense sites to tackling the current \$60 billion backlog at the Army Corps of Engineers, this legislation shrinks from America's challenges and shortchanges America's future.

We can and should do better.

CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

SPEECH OF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman William H. Gray III, who suddenly passed away last week in London. As politicians, we all have certain people that we looked up to as role models and mentors so that we could carry out our duties in a dignified manner. For myself, I had my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, and Mr. Gray. During my youth, I served as a doorman for the House of Representatives where I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Gray on numerous occasions. Over time, I had developed profound respect for Mr. Gray. He was a man that had a sincere interest in the concerns of his constituents and a man that fought for minorities across the country during a time when racial tensions were still high.

Mr. Gray was elected to the Congress in 1978, representing Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District. Many remember Mr. Gray for his quick rise within the Democratic Party. From 1985 to 1989, Mr. Gray was the chairman of the House Budget Committee—the first African American to do so. He used his power as chairman to influence legislation and economic sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa, which sparked a close friendship between him and Nelson Mandela. In 1989, he was the first African American to serve as the Majority Whip and many saw this as his stepping stone to becoming the first African American Speaker of the House.

Aside from the powerful roles that he assumed in Congress, Mr. Gray is remembered most for his contributions to the city of Philadelphia, through his preaching and leadership. Since 1972, Mr. Gray served as the pastor at Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Even while serving in Congress, Mr. Gray never lost sight of his role as the spiritual leader of his community. On numerous occasions, Mr. Gray would say, "First and foremost, I am a Baptist preacher." Through his leadership in Congress, Mr. Gray secured needed funding for Philadelphia's transportation and school systems. His success in Congress was secured by his ability to reach across party lines in order to build strong bipartisan coalitions.

Mr. Gray's story began at Simon Gratz High School in Philadelphia. One day, Mr. Gray's father was invited to speak to the students. Before taking the stage, the principal told Mr. Gray's father, "Don't worry, you can keep it short; these kids aren't going anywhere." His father replied, "I don't know about these other kids, but I know one kid who is going somewhere." His father's intuition proved to be more than accurate. A gifted basketball player,

Mr. Gray accepted a scholarship to play at Franklin and Marshall College. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he went on to receive master's degrees from Drew Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary as well as spending time abroad studying at Oxford University in England. Education was held in a high regard to Mr. Gray. During the prime of his political career, Mr. Gray resigned from Congress to assume a "higher calling" as president of the United Negro College Fund. While many politicians abruptly resign in light of scandal, Mr. Gray resigned in order to "open the door to higher education for a million more black men and women." During his time as president, Mr. Gray successfully raised over \$2 billion for the UNCF.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus and on behalf of Congressmen, past and present that were influenced by Mr. Gray's leadership, I would like to express my gratitude for his service to minorities, Congress, and to the United States of America. Thank you.

KAILEY CHAPMAN SPOKANE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Spokane High School's Kailey Chapman for winning the 300 meter hurdles at the 2013 Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championships.

Through her hard work and dedication, Kailey placed first in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 44.62 seconds. Throughout the season, Kailey worked to perfect her technique and was able to reset four school records from her previous season and was All State in all four of her events. She credits her family, coaches, teammates, Spokane community, and our Heavenly Father for the support that enabled her to complete an outstanding season.

Kailey hopes to come back her senior year to repeat as the 300 meter hurdles champion and become Missouri's 100 meter hurdles champion, as well. Kailey plans to compete in the Junior Olympic Regionals and at the college level, as well as completing a degree in nursing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kailey Chapman, winner of the 300 meter hurdles at the Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championships.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN PERCIN, JR.

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of John Percin, Jr. one of the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighters killed June 30th while fighting a wildfire near the town of Yarnell, Arizona. A funeral mass to honor his life will take place, July 12th, for

family, friends, and parishioners at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

John Percin Jr. grew up in West Linn, Oregon among a community that witnessed a young man active in his school, excelling at numerous sports, and demonstrating a strong compassion for others. After graduating from West Linn High School, Mr. Percin pursued a career with the Granite Mountain Hotshots, an elite firefighting force based in Prescott, Arizona. Hotshots demand only the most physically fit candidates to face the most strenuous firefighting tasks. Through rigorous physical and mental training each Hotshot gains the skills and attributes necessary for this demanding and dangerous work. A Hotshot needs to be a problem solver, able to make difficult decisions in stressful situations, and work as part of a team; I think we witnessed these attributes on display June 30th from Mr. Percin and each of the courageous crewmembers who put their lives on the line to protect others.

John Percin Jr. demonstrated a level of courage and bravery that belies his young age. At only 24 years of age Mr. Percin had the drive and passion to perform the critical work of fighting fires and I am humbled by his commitment to our country. We in Congress express our gratitude to Mr. Percin and convey our deepest respect and sympathy to his family; their son's sacrifice for others will not be forgotten.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT H. AMDT. 227 TO H.R. 1947, THE "FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 20, 2013, I inadvertently voted against the Pitts-Davis amendment to H.R. 1947, the "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013" which was designed to reform the United States' national sugar policy. However, I rise today to clarify my position concerning this amendment and to state that I fully support the Pitts-Davis amendment and will continue to support and cosponsor H.R. 693, the "Sugar Reform Act of 2013."

It is unfortunate that the failed FARRM Bill proposed reforms for every commodity program except the sugar program, the most intrusive and outdated of them all. Our focus in Congress should be geared toward balancing the needs of all Americans. Instead, our current sugar policy's one-sided approach favors sugar processors and growers over American consumers and businesses. Under current law, the sugar industry is able to reap record profits when domestic sugar supplies are tight because of government restrictions. Yet, the cost of the sugar program is then passed on to taxpayers when surplus sugar burdens the market. As a result, American families have to spend additional money on their grocery bills and American companies are placed at a competitive disadvantage. We must limit these government restrictions and allow for a competitive marketplace that will balance the needs of all Americans.

COMMEMORATING NEOSHO NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.

Established in 1888, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery is truly one of a kind. It is the oldest operating federal fish hatchery in the United States and has raised over 130 different species of fish since its creation. With a mission to conserve and protect our nation's fishery resources, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery continues to produce high quality fish year after year.

The Neosho National Fish Hatchery is responsible for a long list of various operations to enhance the fish industry. The hatchery is responsible for producing high quality rainbow trout to stock Lake Taneycomo for recreational fishing, helping the local economy. The hatchery also continues to support and protect the conservation of the endangered Ozark Cavefish, and raises Freshwater Drum Fish to serve as host fish for rearing Neosho Mucket Mussels. All of this is done while over 45,000 annual visitors travel to Neosho to tour and learn about America's longest running national fish hatchery.

I am honored to recognize the Neosho National Fish Hatchery for their excellent work over the past 125 years. By working to conserve, protect, and enhance our fishing industry, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery continues to serve for the benefit all Americans.

MINNESOTA LISTENING SESSION ON THE CUTS TO FOOD ASSISTANCE IN HOUSE GOP FARM BILL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2013, Congressman ELLISON and I hosted a listening session at the Minnesota State Capitol. We heard from Minnesotans affected by the House Farm Bill's proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Below is testimony delivered by Dale Simonson and Patricia Lull.

TESTIMONY FROM DALE SIMONSON, MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Here is a brief overview of the demographics of the SNAP recipients statewide. There are about 554,000 adults and children on SNAP in approximately 259,700 cases. Children make up almost 48% of the SNAP population.

There are 77,417 SNAP family cases.

66% of the family cases reported income from work

Average age of adults with children is 35 years

There are 39,671 senior cases on SNAP.

Average age is 70 years

61% had income from Retirement, Survivors Disabilities Insurance (RSDI)

There are 88,942 disabled cases on SNAP.

There are 62,477 cases that are categorized as "other" adults.

Within this category are able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs)

These people are disconnected from employment compared to other SNAP participants as 56% have no other reported income sources than SNAP.

The average benefit per recipient is \$118 and per case is \$245.

Race/ethnicity demographics of SNAP cases are 59% white, 24% black, 7% Asian, 4% Hispanic, 4% American Indian with multiple races comprising the rest.

That is a very brief overview of the SNAP population in MN. The data being used today comes from the Characteristics of People and Cases on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in December 2012 as well as the Family Self-Sufficiency Report. Both of these reports are available on the DHS public website.

The biggest impact on SNAP recipients in MN would come from the proposed restriction in the House bill on the state ability to use categorical eligibility.

Broad based categorical eligibility is a policy that makes most households categorically eligible for SNAP because they qualify for a non-cash TANF funded benefit. This allows states to raise the income limit up to a maximum of 200% Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) and raise or eliminate the asset limit.

The MN legislature passed a bill effective Nov., 2010 allowing expansion of broad based categorical eligibility to all SNAP cases by increasing the income standard from 130% to 165% of FPG and eliminating the asset limit.

Sec. 4005 of the House bill would remove this state option.

DHS estimates that 6.4% of the caseload or 16,700 cases with over 32,000 people would be made ineligible because their income is above 130% FPG yet below 165% FPG. Of these cases, over 8,000 are family cases that will be ineligible due to over income. The children on these cases would no longer be automatically eligible for free or reduced school lunch.

DHS no longer collects asset information for SNAP. Therefore, we do not have data on the number of cases that would be ineligible due to being over the asset limit.

The House bill provides a permanent reduction in funding for SNAP-Ed. This proposed cut comes on the heels of the program's fiscal year 2013 budget cut of 28 percent that was included in the fiscal cliff agreement, resulting in decreased program activity.

Minnesota's share of SNAP-Ed has been approximately 2.5% of the federal allocation.

Minnesota's current allocation for SNAP-Ed is about \$7,000,000 (cut included).

Further cuts will impact the reach and impact that SNAP-Ed has on Minnesota's population in poverty.

SNAP-Ed is delivered by community nutrition educators from the University of Minnesota Extension Service and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. They use evidence-based, behaviorally-focused curriculum to help Minnesotans with limited financial resources stretch food dollars and make healthy choices.

In FY 2012, the U of M Extension offered SNAP-Ed programming in 84 of 87 counties directly serving approximately 65,000 persons (unduplicated).

In FY 2012, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe offered SNAP-Ed programming on six reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth) directly serving 6,778 persons (unduplicated).

U of M Extension program evaluation outcomes point to positive SNAP-Ed results. Over half of SNAP-Ed participants engaged in healthy eating and physical activity behaviors by the final course session. In addition, participants indicated an average of

greater than 1/3 cup increased intake of both fruits and vegetables per day over the span of a course.

These are the two major provisions that will have the greatest impact on low income Minnesotans on SNAP if these cuts are adopted.

Thank you for your time.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA LULL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SAINT PAUL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Thank you for this opportunity to address the difference that SNAP benefits make in our community.

I serve as Executive Director of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, a non-profit representing 125 local communities of faith. We come from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian, and Quaker backgrounds but every one of our faith traditions agrees with this conviction—No more hungry neighbors!

I am here to say that as a person of faith and a citizen. No more hungry neighbors! In recent years we have made great strides in addressing domestic hunger and SNAP has been an important part of what we have done well as a country. It serves our most vulnerable neighbors—children, seniors, and working families. It serves them in a way that supports local economies (grocery stores and farmers markets) and energizes our children to succeed in school and in life.

While it is important to balance our federal budget, cutting SNAP benefits to our most vulnerable neighbors should be the last option we exercise. The proposed cuts will negatively impact all of us who work with families in poverty. Let me illustrate that.

The Saint Paul Area Council of Churches hosts an emergency food shelf for the American Indian community in Ramsey County. We provide food to 500 individuals a month—enough for 6,000 meals. Use of our food shelf has increased by 30% since last August. More families. More need. More demand on us to do what all of us as citizens are asked to do—provide for those who are most at risk.

Some of our food shelf participants are also volunteers. A couple of months ago, Larry and I worked side-by-side unloading a delivery from Second Harvest, our food bank. Larry is a father and grand-father. He is also a hard worker, carrying in three times as many boxes as I did. When the truck was unloaded and all the food was put away, I thanked him for all he had done. Larry looked me squarely in the eye, pointed to his heart, and said—I do this for the community.

Those who receive SNAP benefits—and those who will be excluded from benefits if cuts are made—they are our community, too. On behalf of them I say, No more hungry neighbors!

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AURORA COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Aurora Colony Historical Society on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The Aurora Colony Historical Society, through its wonderful Old Aurora Colony Museum, has dedicated itself to preserving the memory, architecture, and treasures of Oregon's unique Aurora Colony since 1963.

The Aurora Colony's unique history predates Oregon's statehood. This communal Christian society was established in 1856 by a

group of German and Swiss followers of Dr. Wilhelm Keil. Dr. Keil's vision of a utopian society produced this bustling community that became well known for its craftsman built furniture, fine textiles, and Old World traditions.

54 families and nearly 600 people would eventually live and work communally to support the Aurora Colony. The agricultural skills and manufacturing prowess of the colonists allowed the colony to flourish for nearly 30 years on the banks of Oregon's Pudding River. The community of Aurora still bears the name of Dr. Keil's oldest daughter today.

Descendants of the Aurora Colonists organized a celebration in 1956 to mark the Colony's centennial and to celebrate the community's uncommon history. From this celebration came a desire to preserve the history of the Colony and its remaining artifacts and architecture. The Aurora Colony Historical Society was founded in 1963 and set out on a mission of preservation that survives today—50 years later.

Today the Aurora Colony Historical Society's Old Aurora Colony Museum welcomes tourists, students, researchers, and others to explore its extensive grounds and exhibits. The complex of five preserved buildings offers revolving exhibits, Colony artifacts, and a historical archive of residents' letters and other written documents. The Old Aurora Colony Museum has become an invaluable resource in preserving an important period in Oregon's history. Indeed, Oregon's history books and today's Aurora would both be incomplete were it not for the essential work of the Aurora Colony Historical Society.

With a strong sense of its history and an eye toward the future, I am confident that the Aurora Colony Historical society will continue to thrive for at least another 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be the representative of the fine community of Aurora, Oregon. I congratulate the Aurora Colony Historical Society on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to sharing in the celebration.

HONORING THOMAS DOUGLAS,
MISSOURI SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF 2013

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Thomas H. Douglas, the Missouri Small Business Person of 2013.

Thomas is the current President and CEO of JMARK Business Solutions, Inc. JMARK has made its name by providing outstanding technology consulting services for small to medium sized businesses looking to streamline IT operations to enhance employee performance and increase customer satisfaction.

Founded in 1988, JMARK started as a small computer company in Cabool, and is now headquartered in Springfield, Missouri. In 1997, Thomas joined the company after serving in the US Navy. The leadership skills he developed in the Navy ensured a quick rise as the company's level one engineer to president and majority owner in 1999.

Under Thomas' guidance, JMARK has seen tremendous growth combining an incredible customer-friendly business philosophy with a

full array of support services. He has taken JMARK from a small team of experts in a single office to a group of over 60 employees with offices in three states.

As a leader of one of our nation's successful small businesses, I am honored to recognize Thomas for his outstanding service to JMARK Business Solutions and the community. The leadership, innovation, customer service, and hard work exemplified by Thomas is properly recognized through this exceptional award. It is an honor to recognize Thomas H. Douglas as the Missouri Small Business Person of 2013.

HONORING LIFE AND SERVICE OF
KEVIN WOYJECK

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of a young man who lost his life battling the recent wildfires in Arizona. Kevin Woyjeck was a member of the Granite Mountain Hotshot Squad of Prescott, Arizona, whose life was tragically lost along with 18 of his colleagues while fighting to protect those in danger from this blaze. He, and his entire squad, bravely put their lives at risk, and all but one paid the ultimate price.

Kevin, the son of Captain Joe Woyjeck of the Los Angeles County Fire Station, was only 21 years old when he lost his life. Growing up in Southern California, he was passionate about one day becoming a professional firefighter, a dream realized by serving as a member of such an elite squad. He and his colleagues trained hard to be the first line of defense against dangerous fires, and during the recent blazes they fought in brutal conditions to stop the advancement and destruction of the wildfire. For days they fought to contain the flames, but on Sunday, June 30, the fire surrounded them and proved impossible to escape.

We recognize the lives and bravery of Kevin and his team. Our hearts and thoughts go out to his family and all those affected by the loss of these brave men. We know that while they are no longer with us, their work and courage will never be forgotten.

Kevin's life was taken too soon, but he made his family and his country proud. He accomplished so much in his 21 years, and we will always remember his sacrifice.

GARRETT METSCHER REPUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL HIGH JUMP STATE
CHAMPION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Republic High School's Garrett Metscher for winning the high jump at the 2013 Class 4 State Track and Field Championships.

Through his hard work and dedication, Garrett placed first in the high jump with a new

school record of 6'7½". Throughout the season, he dominated the field and his effort resulted in the event's top seed heading into the state championship. In the state championship event, Garrett did not disappoint, besting the 15-man field and taking the title.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Garrett Metscher, winner of the high jump at the Missouri Class 4 State Track and Field Championships.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND F.
REES

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the Adjutant General for the State of Oregon, Major General Raymond F. Rees, for his steadfast service to this Nation. On Saturday, July 13, 2013 Major General Rees will conclude over 50 years of dedicated service to the United States of America.

General Rees began his career as a West Point Cadet in 1962. Prior to his current assignment as the longest serving wartime Adjutant General in Oregon history, Major General Rees had numerous active duty and Army National Guard assignments to include: service in the Republic of Vietnam as a cavalry troop commander; commander of the 116th Armored Cavalry Regiment; nearly nine years as the Adjutant General of Oregon; Director of the Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau; over five years service as Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau; 14 months as Acting Chief, National Guard Bureau; Chief of Staff (dual-hatted), Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). NORAD is a binational, Canada and United States command.

Major General Rees has demonstrated a level of competence, confidence, courage and commitment to the State of Oregon and the United States of America that bring great credit upon himself, the Oregon National Guard and the United States Army. We in Congress express our gratitude to a great American warrior and wish the General and his wife Mary Len a happy and well-earned retirement to their ranch in Helix, Oregon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding one missed vote on July 9, 2013. Had I been present for rollcall 316, on the amendment offered by Mr. COHEN of Tennessee to H.R. 2609, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING CHRIS LAHM'S 500TH
CAREER VICTORY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ozark Christian College Men's Basketball Coach Chris Lahm on his 500th career victory.

Chris achieved his 500th win after a 78–68 victory over Hillsdale Baptist in the Association of Christian College Athletics Tournament 3rd place game. Not only did Chris lead his team to 3rd place in this tournament, Chris and his team finished another tremendous season with a 3rd place finish in the 2013 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division II National Tournament, as well. With these accomplishments, Chris was named the 2013 NCCAA Division II Southwest Regional Basketball Coach of the Year.

Chris' 27-year career as head basketball coach at both Nebraska Christian College and Ozark Christian College translates to thousands of hours of practice, games, and travel in addition to the hundreds of players he has helped throughout his time serving as head coach and mentor.

Through his hard work and dedication, Chris has left a positive impact at Ozark Christian College and the community. Chris should be proud of his accomplishments in recruiting, coaching, and guiding a phenomenal group of young men throughout the past 27 years. I commend him on a job well done.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ozark Christian College Men's Basketball Coach Chris Lahm on his 500th career victory.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 15

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine strategic sourcing, focusing on leveraging the

government's buying power to save billions.

SD-342

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Syria.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

SD-192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the "Defense Production Act", focusing on issues and opportunities for reauthorization.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine how United States gasoline and fuel prices are being affected by the current boom in domestic oil production and the restructuring of the United States refining industry and distribution system.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine S. 980, to provide for enhanced embassy security.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

To hold hearings to examine implementation of wartime contracting reforms.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on growing authoritarianism in Azerbaijan, focusing on current events in Azerbaijan and the prospect for a free and fair election.

SVC-201-00

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine pooled retirement plans, focusing on closing the retirement plan coverage gap for small businesses.

SD-430

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Katherine Archuleta, of Colo-

rado, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

SD-342

JULY 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower

To receive a closed briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the Navy's current and projected capabilities to meet those threats.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the Missile Defense Agency.

SD-192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine the consumer debt industry.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance

To hold hearings to examine the expansion of internet gambling, focusing on assessing consumer protection concerns.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be the Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative to the United Nations.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security at 10 years, focusing on harnessing science and technology to protect national security and enhance government efficiency.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine working together to restore the protections of the "Voting Rights Act", focusing on Selma and *Shelby County*.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SH-216

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold closed hearings to examine revisions to the nuclear employment strategy.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine E-Rate 2.0, focusing on connecting every child to technology.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 235, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and S. 920, to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine small business tax reform, focusing on making the tax code work for entrepreneurs and startups.

SR-428A

JULY 18

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Martin E. Dempsey, USA for reappointment to the grade of general and reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN for reappointment to the grade of admiral and reappointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine the issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure in the United States.

SD-366

AUGUST 1

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the November 6, 2012 referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico and the Administration's response.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 11

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2014 for the Federal Communications Commission.

SD-138